



Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

February 14, 2013

Purpose: The Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) meets to serve citizens and partner with City staff and elected officials to promote bicycle improvements in Edina for education, encouragement, infrastructure, enforcement, and ongoing assessment. We support implementation of the approved [City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) that serves all levels of bicyclists, connects key destinations including safe routes to schools, and integrates with the Twin Cities' regional bike network. Our **vision** is a progressive bicycle-friendly community where citizens can integrate cycling into their daily lives.

Time & Location: BETF monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Edina City Hall. For questions contact Peter Kelley, Chair. Guests are welcome.

Distribution: BETF, guests, City Manager, City Engineer, Edina Police BETF Liaison Sgt. Timothy Olson, and Mayor & City Council. Also Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission and Ned Nelson of the Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee

- **Present:** Peter Kelley, Carl Follstad, Rob Erickson, Lori Richman, Sally Dunn,
 - **Absent:** Alex Johnson, Marty Mathis, Alice Hulbert, Ellen Jones, Kirk Johnson, Brad Schaeppi, Donald Eyeberg, Larry Olson, Jennifer Janovy, Tom Randall.
 - **Guests:** None
 - **Recorded by:** Peter Kelley
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1. **Nine Mile Creek Trail Update** – Peter reported receiving an email from Three Rivers Park District requesting Letter of Support for 2013 Federal Recreational Trail Program for a small segment of the Nine Mile Creek Trail along Xerxes Avenue North from roughly 73rd to 75th Street. BETF will submit the letter and publicize the status update.
2. **Bloomington Bike Committee** – Lori attended the initial meeting of a new city of Bloomington biking group that would be analogous to the BETF. The group was being organized by the Do.Town initiative. A similar group in Richfield has also been

identified. There was general agreement that it would be useful to coordinate the efforts of these local groups in the future.

3. **Bike Safety on Vernon Ave.** – Peter reported an Edina resident requesting assistance with improving the safety of Vernon/Hansen Ave intersection. The resident raised the following points:

- a. The 40mph speed limit is routinely exceeded by vehicles in both directions giving the intersection's location as the bottom of hills in both directions and lack of speed limit enforcement on this section of County road.
- b. There are generous, wide, relatively smooth shoulders or second thru lanes for bikes to utilize along Vernon Ave – EXCEPT at this intersection and in this direction.
- c. At least one scooter fatality has occurred at this intersection and in the same direction (NE) of travel. (Scooter was going straight thru and a SW bound car turned left in front of it.)
- d. If the NE bound biker uses the "right turn only" lane as he/she approaches the intersection, the drivers in vehicles waiting to enter Vernon from Hanson and drivers on SW bound Vernon waiting to turn onto Hanson, interpret the bikers position in the right turn only lane to indicate the biker is going to turn right on Hanson - when in fact the biker is just trying to stay out of traffic exceeding 40mph in a narrow lane while riding straight thru the intersection.

The group discussed the possibility of improved signage and restriping options. Peter agreed to bring the issue to Wayne Houle, but as Vernon is a county road, wasn't certain what the city could do. He will also try to raise the issue with County officials.

4. **Future Bike Lanes** – The group agreed to form a subcommittee to examine the need for additional bike lanes in the city. This subcommittee is to review designated bike routes in the comprehensive plan, determine the utility of bike lanes or other infrastructure improvements, the rationale behind any such lanes (e.g. safe routes to school, link to public transit, etc.), and prioritize their development.